

dissenters. . . . I cannot think that God will damn any man for the errors of his judgement. . . . 'Tis what I ever told both the King and Duke, and that at parting; if God should suffer men to be so farr infatuated as to raise com-motions in the kingdom, he would never find any of that party ¹ among them, at least of note or credit. . . . I am for the just and mercifull thing, whoever getts or looses by itt, as ought all men of truth, honour and conscience to be.²

Penn's real position with regard to James II is very well stated by Ranke,³ who devotes nearly a whole chapter to the subject. Macaulay's charges were refuted, almost as soon as made, by W. E. Forster in the preface to a new edition of Clarkson's Life of Penn in 1849, and by Hepworth Dixon in a life of Penn published in 1851. But though Macaulay's charges were completely disproved, he was unwilling to withdraw a single one of them or, rather, mentally unable to see that they were disproved. A deputation from the Society of Friends came to see him in order to state the case for Penn. His account of the interview is a fine example of complacent infallibility.

Lord Shelburne, Charles Austin, and Milman to breakfast. A pleasant meal. Then the Quakers, five in number. Never was there such a rout. They had absolutely nothing to say. Every charge against Penn came out as clear as any case at the Old Bailey. They had nothing to urge but what was true enough, that he looked worse in

my History
than he would have looked on a general survey
of his whole
life. But that is not my fault. I wrote the
History of four
years during which he was exposed to great
temptations ;
during which he was the favourite of a bad
king, and an
active solicitor in a most corrupt court. His
character was

¹ Quakers.

- From the Carte Papers in the Bodleian Library, vol. xl, fols.
212 et seq.

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36-7.

³ Bk. xvii, chap. 5.